

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, November 20, 2006
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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Editor's Note: The President was in Hanoi, Vietnam, on November 17, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

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Statement on the Death of Ed Bradley

November 9, 2006

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the death of Ed Bradley. For over 40 years, the American people have turned to Ed as a trusted source of information about events that have shaped our Nation. From serving as a White House correspondent to his many years as a journalist for a television news-magazine, he produced distinctive investigative reports that inspired action and cemented his reputation as one of the most accomplished journalists of our time.

Today our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Bradley's family and colleagues.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2006

On November 14, 1979, by Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the situation in Iran. Because our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2006. Therefore, consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am

continuing for 1 year this national emergency with respect to Iran.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:31 a.m., November 9, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Iran

November 9, 2006

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Iran emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2006.

Our relations with Iran have not yet returned to normal, and the process of implementing the January 19, 1981, agreements with Iran is still underway. For these reasons,

I have determined that it is necessary to continue for 1 year the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, with respect to Iran.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 9, 2006.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Senators Harry Reid and Richard J.
Durbin**

November 10, 2006

The President. I want to thank Senator Reid and Senator Durbin. Dick and I have had a really good discussion with them. The elections are over; the problems haven't gone away. And I assured the Senators that we will cooperate as closely as we can to solve common problems. I, of course, said this after I congratulated them on great victories. I know they were proud of their team's efforts, and they ran good campaigns, and they talked about issues that the people care about, and they won.

My attitude about this is that there is a great opportunity for us to show the country that Republicans and Democrats are equally as patriotic and equally concerned about the future and that we can work together. Senator Reid and I are both from the West. I'm from west Texas; he's from Nevada. And we tend to speak the same language, pretty plain-spoken people, which should bode well for our relationship.

So I appreciate you all coming. I'm really looking forward to working with you.

[*At this point, Senator Reid made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, sir. Dick, do you want to say something?

[*Senator Durbin made brief remarks.*]

The President. I was hoping you would notice that. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript

released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Senators Reid and Durbin.

**Remarks at the Dedication of the
National Museum of the Marine
Corps in Quantico, Virginia**

November 10, 2006

The President. Thank you all. Thank you for the warm welcome. General Hagee, thank you for your service to our country. Secretaries of the Army and Navy and Air Force; I'm proud to be here with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Pete Pace, the first United States marine to have ever held this position. Senator Warner and Congresswoman Davis; former Governor Warner and former Senator Glenn; honored guests; veterans; General Christmas and all those responsible for this fine museum; United States marines everywhere: Please join me in wishing a very happy Marine Corps birthday to every man and woman who has ever worn the eagle, the globe, and the anchor.

As Jim Lehrer reminded you, we celebrate the 231st birthday of one of the world's premier fighting forces. And we mark the opening of our Nation's most modern military museum. For too long, the only people to have direct experience of the Marine Corps have been the marines themselves—and the enemy who's made the mistake of taking them on. The National Museum of the Marine Corps fixes this problem. In this museum, you will experience life from a marine's perspective. In this museum, you'll feel what it's like to go through boot camp—no, thanks—[*laughter*—make an amphibious landing under fire, or deploy from a helicopter in Vietnam.

The museum will not make you into a marine—only a drill instructor can do that—but by putting you in the boots of a marine, this museum will leave you with an appreciation of the rich history of the Corps and the pride that comes with earning the title United States marine.

The history of the Corps is as important to each marine as his rifle. Every marine knows the Corps traces its founding to a

Philadelphia tavern in 1775. Every marine can name the famous battles, legends, and heroes that stretch from the halls of Montezuma to the deserts of Iraq. Every marine understands that the Corps reputation for honor and courage is a sacred inheritance from marines past, and a solemn trust to be passed on to marines to come. The marines believe that you cannot know what you stand for if you do not know where you came from, and they teach their history because they are determined to repeat it.

The history of the Corps is now preserved within these walls. Many of you here today do not need a museum to tell you this history because you wrote it yourselves with your sweat and your sacrifice in places like Tarawa, Chosin, and Khe Sahn. These walls pay tribute to your contributions to American freedom. These walls remind all who visit here that honor, courage, and commitment are not just words. They are core values for a way of life that puts service above self. And these walls will keep the history of the Marine Corps alive for generations of Americans to come. This is an important place, and I thank you for supporting it.

The museum is shaped in the form of the famous photograph of the flag raising on Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima is one of the most important battles in American history. It is fitting that Iwo Jima is one of the most important exhibits in this museum. The Japanese who defended that island had learned from costly battles that they could not defeat American forces. Yet they believed that by inflicting maximum casualties on our forces, they would demoralize our Nation and make America tire of war.

In that battle, the Japanese succeeded in taking the lives of more than 6,000 men. They did not succeed in stopping the marines from achieving their mission. And that flag that was raised on Mount Suribachi would become an enduring symbol of American resolve and a lasting icon of a democracy at war.

The history of the Corps is now being written by a new generation of marines. Since the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, more than 190,000 men and women have stepped forward to wear the uniform of the Marine Corps. Like the marines who have

come before them, this new generation is serving freedom's cause in distant lands. Like the marines who have come before them, this new generation faces determined enemies. And like the marines who have come before them, this new generation is adding its own chapters to the stories of liberty and peace. And years from now, when America looks out on a democratic Middle East growing in freedom and prosperity, Americans will speak of the battles like Fallujah with the same awe and reverence that we now give to Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima.

Like the marines who have come before them, this new generation has also given some of its finest men in the line of duty. One of these fine men was Jason Dunham. Jason's birthday is November the 10th, so you might say that he was born to be a marine. And as far back as boot camp, his superiors spotted the quality that would mark this young American as an outstanding marine, his willingness to put the needs of others before his own.

Corporal Dunham showed that spirit in April 2004, while leading a patrol of his marines in an Iraqi town near the Syrian border. When a nearby Marine convoy was ambushed, Corporal Dunham led his squad to the site of the attack, where he and his men stopped a convoy of cars that were trying to make an escape. As he moved to search one of the vehicles, an insurgent jumped out and grabbed the Corporal by the throat. The Corporal engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. At one point he shouted to his fellow marines, "No, no, no, watch his hand." Moments later, an enemy grenade rolled out. Corporal Dunham did not hesitate; he jumped on the grenade to protect his fellow marines; he used his helmet and his body to absorb the blast.

A friend who was there that terrible day put it this way: "Corporal Dunham had a gift from God. Everyone who came in contact with him wanted to be like him. He was the toughest marine but the nicest guy. He would do anything for you. Corporal Dunham was the kind of person everybody wants as their best friend." Despite surviving the initial blast and being given the best of medical care, Corporal Dunham ultimately succumbed to his wounds. And by giving his

own life, Corporal Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a marine.

Corporal Dunham's mom and dad are with us today on what would have been this brave young man's 25th birthday. We remember that the marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced. And on this special birthday, in the company of his fellow marines, I'm proud to announce that our Nation will recognize Corporal Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor.

As long as we have marines like Corporal Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty. And as long as we have this fine museum, America will never forget their sacrifice.

May God bless you, may God bless the marines, and may God bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Mark Warner of Virginia; former Senator John H. Glenn, Jr., of Ohio; Lt. Gen. G.R. Christmas, USMC (Ret.), president, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; Jim Lehrer, anchor of PBS's NewsHour with Jim Lehrer; and Dan and Deb Dunham, parents of Corp. Jason Dunham, USMC, who was killed near Husaybah, Iraq, on April 14, 2004.

The President's Radio Address

November 11, 2006

Good morning. This weekend we commemorate Veterans Day, a day when America honors every man and woman who has worn the uniform of our military. In Veterans Day celebrations across our Nation, we remember those who have served in previous wars, those who are serving today, and those who did not live to become veterans. Especially in a time of war, we see in our veterans an example of people who stepped forward to serve a cause larger than themselves. This weekend I ask you to take a moment to thank our veterans for their service and express your appreciation for the sacrifices they have

made to preserve our freedom and way of life.

One freedom that defines our way of life is the freedom to choose our leaders at the ballot box. We saw that freedom earlier this week, when millions of Americans went to the polls to cast their votes for a new Congress. Whatever your opinion of the outcome, all Americans can take pride in the example our democracy sets for the world by holding elections even in a time of war. Our democratic institutions are a source of strength, and our trust in these institutions has made America the most powerful, prosperous, and stable nation in the world.

As a result of this week's elections, the Democrats now hold a majority in both Houses of Congress. After the elections, I called the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate to congratulate them on the victory they achieved for their party. On Thursday I had lunch with Congresswoman Pelosi and Congressman Hoyer, and on Friday I met with Senators Reid and Durbin. We had good discussions. I told them what I have told the men and women in my administration: We must put these elections behind us and work together on the great issues facing America.

The elections will bring changes to Washington. But one thing has not changed: America faces brutal enemies who have attacked us before and want to attack us again. I have a message for these enemies: Do not confuse the workings of American democracy with a lack of American will; our Nation is committed to bringing you to justice; and we will prevail.

Iraq is the central front in this war on terror. I look forward to listening to ideas from the new leaders of Congress on the best way to support our troops on the frontlines and win the war on terror. I also look forward to hearing recommendations on the way forward in Iraq from a bipartisan panel led by former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. In the meantime, I have made an important change to my national security team. On Wednesday I accepted Don Rumsfeld's resignation as Secretary of Defense and announced my intent to nominate Bob Gates to replace him. Bob is a proven leader who has served six

Presidents—four Republicans and two Democrats. As a former CIA Director and the current president of Texas A&M University, he has experience leading large and complex organizations, and he has shown that he is an agent of change. As Secretary of Defense, he will provide a fresh outlook on our strategy in Iraq and what we need to do to prevail.

Bob replaces the longest serving member of my Cabinet, Don Rumsfeld. History will record that on Secretary Rumsfeld's watch, the men and women of our military overthrew two terrorist regimes, brought justice to scores of senior Al Qaida operatives, and helped stop new terrorist attacks on our people. America is safer and the world is more secure because of the leadership of Don Rumsfeld, and I am deeply grateful for his service.

The message of this week's elections is clear: The American people want their leaders in Washington to set aside partisan differences, conduct ourselves in an ethical manner, and work together to address the challenges facing our Nation. This is important work that will demand the hard effort and good faith of leaders from both sides of the aisle, and I pledge to do my part.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:15 p.m. on November 10 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Veterans Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

November 11, 2006

Thank you. Thanks for coming. Secretary Nicholson, thank you for your kind words and for your leadership. Members of the Cabinet; Members of Congress; members of the United State military; all veterans; all volunteers who have sworn to uphold the security of the United States, I thank your families

for being here; and I thank our veterans. I am proud to join you on this day of honor.

On this day, in this month, at this hour, our Nation remembers the moment when the guns of World War I went silent, and we recognize the service and the sacrifice of our Nation's veterans. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, from Kuwait to Kandahar, from Berlin to Baghdad, our veterans have borne the costs of America's wars, and they have stood watch over America's peace. The American people are grateful to the veterans and all who have fought for our freedom.

Since the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln, the National Cemetery has reminded our citizens of the cost of liberty. The simple white markers testify to honor fulfilled and duty served. Most of these markers stand over graves of Americans who came home to enjoy the peace they earned. Too many stand over the graves of those who gave their lives to protect that peace. This day is dedicated to all who answered the call to service, whether they live in honor among us or sleep in valor beneath this sacred ground.

On this Veterans Day, we give thanks for the 24 million Americans who strengthen our Nation with their example of service and sacrifice. Our veterans are drawn from many generations and from many backgrounds. Some charged across great battlefields. Some fought on the high seas. Some patrolled the open skies. And all contributed to the character and to the greatness of America.

On this Veterans Day, we honor a new generation of men and women who are defending our freedom. Since September the 11th, 2001, our Armed Forces have engaged the enemy, the terrorists, on many fronts. At this moment, more than 1.4 million Americans are on active duty, serving in the cause of freedom and peace around the world. They are our Nation's finest citizens. They confront grave danger to defend the safety of the American people. They've brought down tyrants; they've liberated two nations; they have helped bring freedom to more than 50 million people. Through their sacrifice, they're making this Nation safer and more secure, and they are earning the proud title of veteran.

On this Veterans Day, we're humbled by the strong hearts of those who have served.

Last week, Secretary Nicholson told me about a visit he made to New York City, where he met a group of veterans who lost limbs in this war. Secretary Nicholson asked them how they could keep their spirits up. One man answered, “Sir, it is because we feel the American people are so appreciative of our service.” Many of our veterans bear the scars of their service to our country, and we are a nation that will keep its commitments to those who have risked their lives for our freedom. That young man was right—we do appreciate the service of those who wear our uniform.

To help Americans show our appreciation to those who have served, Secretary Nicholson has asked all our Nation’s veterans to wear their medals today. I urge our citizens to go up to those men and women and shake a hand and give a hug and give a word of thanks. I ask you to consider volunteering at a veterans hospital or a nursing home. I encourage you to work with your local veterans group to help support our troops in the field and their families here at home.

As we raise our flag and as the bugle sounds taps, we remember that the men and women of America’s Armed Forces serve a great cause. They follow in a great tradition, handed down to them by America’s veterans. And in public ceremonies and in private prayer, we give thanks for the freedom we enjoy because of their willingness to serve.

I thank you for honoring those who serve today and for honoring those who have set such a sterling example, our Nation’s veterans. May God bless our veterans; may God bless all who wear the uniform; and may God continue to bless the United State of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:39 a.m. in the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Remarks at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial
November 13, 2006

Thank you all very much. I’m honored to join you today in today’s ceremony. I’m proud to dedicate this piece of our Nation’s Capital to the lasting memory of a great man.

We have gathered in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, to the ideals he held, and to the life he lived. Dr. King showed us that a life of conscience and purpose can lift up many souls. And on this ground, a monument will rise that preserves his legacy for the ages. Honoring Dr. King’s legacy requires more than building a monument; it required the ongoing commitment of every American. So we will continue to work for the day when the dignity and humanity of every person is respected and the American promise is denied to no one.

This project has been over a decade in the making, and I thank those who have worked to bring about this day. I particularly want to thank my predecessor, the man who signed the legislation to create this memorial, President Bill Clinton. It sounds like to me they haven’t forgotten you yet. *[Laughter]* He’s become, as you know, my fourth brother. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Harry Johnson. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I welcome the Members of Congress. I thank my mayor, Tony Williams, who is here. I’m proud to be with the members of the King family. I thank the representatives of the community and civil rights groups who have joined us. I thank the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation board members and executive cabinet. Most of all, thank you all for coming.

Our Declaration of Independence makes it clear that the human right to dignity and equality is not a grant of government. It is the gift from the Author of Life. And Martin Luther King considered the Declaration one of America’s great, as he called it, “charters of freedom.” He called our Founders’ words, “a promise that all men—yes, black men, as well as white men—would be guaranteed the unalienable right of liberty, life, and the pursuit of happiness.”

Throughout Dr. King’s life, he continued to trust in the power of those words, even when the practice of America did not live up to their promise. When Martin Luther King came to Washington, DC, in the summer of 1963, he came to hold this Nation to its own standards and to call its citizens to live up to the principles of our founding. He stood not far from here, on the steps of

the Lincoln Memorial. With thousands gathered around him, Dr. King looked out over the American Capital and declared his famous words, "I have a dream."

His dream spread a message of hope that echoed from his hometown of Sweet Auburn, Georgia, to the pulpit of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church to the Edmund Pettus Bridge. An assassin's bullet could not shatter the dream. Dr. King's message of justice and brotherhood took hold in the hearts of men and women across the great land of ours. It continues to inspire millions across the world.

As we break ground, we give Martin Luther King his rightful place among the great Americans honored on our National Mall. The King Memorial will span a piece of ground between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. And by its presence in this place, it will unite the men who declared the promise of America and defended the promise of America with the man who redeemed the promise of America.

The memorial will reflect the arc of Dr. King's life, his search for justice, and the enduring beauty of his words. The memorial will include a wall where visitors can read passages from Dr. King's sermons and speeches through a stream of water. And on the banks of the Potomac, visitors will walk from the Mountain of Despair to the Stone of Hope, where Dr. King's image is rendered.

Today we see only these open acres, yet we know that when the work is done, the King Memorial will be a fitting tribute, powerful and hopeful and poetic, like the man it honors. As we break ground, we remember the great obstacles that Dr. King overcame and the courage that transformed American history. The years of Martin Luther King's life were tumultuous, difficult, and an heroic time in the life of our country. Across our Nation, African Americans faced daily cruelties and pervasive wrongs. In 1955, a woman, Rosa Parks, challenged these wrongs on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, when she refused a driver's order to give her seat to a white man. Her act of defiance inspired a young Baptist minister and changed our Nation forever.

Within days of Rosa Parks's lonely protest, Dr. King helped organize a boycott that captured the attention of our country. When Dr. King's leadership—with Dr. King's leadership, the boycott forced America to confront the glaring contradiction between the sign on the bus and the words of our Declaration of Independence. And on this date, exactly 50 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled the segregation of public buses unconstitutional. And so today we celebrate the courage that won victories and helped spark one of the greatest movements for equality and freedom in American history.

Eventually, the civil rights movement would succeed in persuading Congress to pass sweeping legislation that represented a new founding for our Nation. On July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act at the White House. As of that date, no longer could weary travelers be denied a room in a hotel or a table at a restaurant on account of their race. And no longer could any American be forced to drink from a separate water fountain or sit at the back of the bus just because of their race.

Dr. King liked to say that our Civil Rights Act was written in the streets by citizens who marched for the idea that all men are created equal. He was right; yet there is no doubting that the law came as it did when it did because of the courage and leadership of Martin Luther King.

As we break ground, we recognize our duty to continue the unfinished work of American freedom. America has come a long way since Dr. King's day, yet our journey to justice is not complete. There are still people in our society who hurt; neighborhoods are too poor. There are still children who do not get the education they need to fulfill their God-given potential. There's still prejudice that holds citizens back. And there's still a need for all Americans to hear the words of Dr. King so we can hasten the day when his message of hope takes hold in every community across our country.

We go forward with the knowledge that the Creator who wrote the desire for liberty in our hearts also gives us the strength and wisdom to fulfill it. We go forward with trust that God, who has brought us thus far on the way, will give us the strength to finish

the journey. And we go forward with the confidence that no matter how difficult the challenge, if we remain true to our founding principles, America will overcome.

Dr. King was on this Earth just 39 years, but the ideas that guided his work and his life are eternal. Here in this place, we will raise a lasting memorial to those eternal truths. So in the presence of his family, his coworkers in freedom's cause, and those who carry on his legacy today, I'm proud to dedicate this ground on behalf of the American people as the site of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. on the National Mall. In his remarks, he referred to Harry E. Johnson, Sr., president and chief executive officer, Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel and an Exchange With Reporters

November 13, 2006

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back to Washington. The Prime Minister and I had a fascinating discussion the last time he was here. We were sitting on the Truman Balcony. We spent probably an hour-and-a-half strategizing about how we can work together to achieve peace. Our conversation today continued this—that important dialog.

I appreciate the Prime Minister's strategic thoughts. He cares deeply about his country, and he cares deeply about securing the peace. We talked about our commitment to a two-state solution. We talked about the need for a Palestinian Government to embrace the principles of the Quartet and the roadmap, which both our Governments strongly support.

We spent a great deal of time on Iran and about how we can work together with other nations of the world to convince the Iranians to abandon their nuclear weapons ambitions. I recognize the threat to world peace that

the Iranians propose, as does—that the Iranians pose, as does the Prime Minister. We talked about Iraq. We talked about a variety of issues.

But the whole central thrust of our discussions was based upon our understanding that we're involved in an ideological struggle between extremists and radicals versus people who just simply want to live in peace, and that as democracies we have an obligation, obviously, to listen to the will of our people, but at the same time, work together to help those who want to live in a peaceful society achieve their ambitions.

Mr. Prime Minister, it has been a delight to be with you again, and welcome back.

Prime Minister Olmert. Thank you very much. President—there's nothing that I can add to the very accurate analysis that you made with regard to these big issues. We in the Middle East have followed the American policy in Iraq for a long time, and we are very much impressed and encouraged by the stability which the greatest operation of America in Iraq brought to the Middle East. And we pray and hope that this policy will be fully successful so that this stability which was created for all the moderate countries in the Middle East will continue.

We shared thoughts about the Iranian threat. There is no question that the Iranian threat is not just a threat for Israel but for the whole world. The fanaticism and the extremism of the Iranian Government, and the fact that the leader of a nation such as Iran can threaten the very existence of another nation, as he does towards the State of Israel, is not something that we can tolerate or will ever tolerate, and certainly not when we know that he is trying to possess nuclear weapons. And I'm very encouraged by our discussion and thoughts that we have exchanged about what needs to be done in the Middle East, Mr. President.

Finally, I say time and again, on different occasions, that we want to open a serious dialog with the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, and I will make every possible effort to help Abu Mazen to get into such a dialog with us. Indeed, we hope that the new Government will be established soon on the basis of the Quartet and the roadmap, and that will allow an immediate contact between him

and me that I'm sure will lead into a serious negotiation process.

And again, Mr. President, it's always a great joy to be your guest. And I always thank you for your friendship—your personal friendship and, even more important, your friendship for the State of Israel.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. We'll answer two questions a side. Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Iraq Study Group

Q. Mr. President, the Senate—the incoming Senate Democratic leaders have called for a phased withdrawal of troops from Iraq. You met this morning with the Baker commission. Would you accept any solution that included a timetable, and what options did you discuss this morning with the Baker commission?

President Bush. Tom, I'm not going to prejudge the Baker commission's report. I was pleased to meet with them. I was impressed by the quality of the—of their membership. I was impressed by the questions they asked. They are—they want us to succeed in Iraq, just like I want to succeed.

And so we had a really good discussion. I'm not sure what the report is going to say. I'm looking forward to seeing it. I believe this: I believe that it's important for us to succeed in Iraq, not only for our security but for the security of the Middle East, and that I'm looking forward to interesting ideas. In the meantime, General Pete Pace is leading investigations within the Pentagon as to how to reach our goal, which is success—a government which can sustain, govern, and defend itself and will serve as an ally in this war on terror.

I believe it is very important, though, for people making suggestions to recognize that the best military options depend upon the conditions on the ground.

And so it's an interesting period here in Washington, Mr. Prime Minister. You might realize the opposition party won—won the Senate and the House. And what's interesting is, is that they're beginning to understand that with victory comes responsibilities. And I'm looking forward to working with the Democrats to achieve common objectives.

Syria-Israel Relations

Q. Mr. President, do you see any change in the administration's position regarding Syria? Do you support the resumption of Israeli-Syrian negotiations? And the same question to the Prime Minister, if I may. In the past, you rejected the resumption of the Syrian and Israeli negotiations under—one of the reasons was the rejection of the American administration regarding the policies of Syria. Do you see now, after you discuss this matter with the President, any change in your position regarding Syria?

President Bush. My answer to your question is, Prime Minister Olmert knows how to run his own foreign policy. And he can figure out his policy towards them. My policy towards Syria is this: That we expect the Syrians to be, one, out of Lebanon so that the Lebanese democracy can exist; two, not harboring extremists that create—that empower these radicals to stop the advance of democracies; three, to help this young democracy in Iraq succeed. And the Syrian President knows my position. We have told that to him through my administration. We do have an Embassy there in Syria. But our position is very clear, and we would like to see some progress toward peace from the Syrians.

Prime Minister Olmert. I share the same opinion with President Bush. We are not against negotiations with Syria. We would love to be able to have negotiations with Syria, but that must be based on a certain reasonable, responsible policy, which is not preformed by Syria for the time being. Everything that they are doing is to the other direction—in Lebanon, in Iraq, and the sponsorship of Hamas and Khaled Meshal as the main perpetrators of terror against the State of Israel. With some changes in the Russian—I'm sorry, in the Syrian attitude on these major issues, I hope that one day the conditions for contacts between them and us will be created. But to be honest, I don't think at the present time they manifest any such attitude. And that makes it impossible.

President Bush. Matt [Matthew Spetalnick, Reuters].

Iran/Nuclear Weapons Development

Q. Yes. Mr. President, Tony Blair today is going to be calling for a reaching out to

both Syria and Iran to help calm the situation in Iraq. What is your response to that?

President Bush. I haven't seen his comments, but you just heard my response on Syria. And my comments on Iran is this: If the Iranians want to have a dialog with us, we have shown them a way forward, and that is for them to verify—verifiably suspend their enrichment activities. We put that proposal on the table awhile back. We said that if you want to have a dialog with us, we're willing to come to the table with the EU, as well as Russia and China, to discuss a way forward. But first, you must verifiably suspend your enrichment activities.

Our focus of this administration is to convince the Iranians to give up its nuclear weapons ambitions. And that focus is based upon our strong desire for there to be peace in the Middle East. And an Iran with a nuclear weapon would be a destabilizing influence. And so we have made it very clear, our position in regards Iran, and it hasn't changed.

Q. Mr. President, do you think that it's better to impose sanctions on Iran or to handle dialog with them?

[At this point, a reporter asked a question in Hebrew, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. I think it's very important for the world to unite with one common voice to say to the Iranians that, "If you choose to continue forward, you'll be isolated." And one source of isolation would be economic isolation. In other words, there has to be a consequence for their intransigence. They have—we went to the United Nations; we made it very clear—"we" being a lot of the world—have made it clear that the Iranian nuclear weapons ambitions are not in the world's interest. And therefore, if they continue to move forward with a program, there has to be a consequence. And a good place to start is working together to isolate the country.

And my hope is, is that there are rational people inside the Government that recognize isolation is not in their country's interest. And

I also, when I speak about Iran, speak about a government, not about the Iranian people. I believe the Iranian people want a better way forward. I don't think they want to confront the world. I believe they need—I believe they could benefit by more trade and more openness with the world. But their leaders have to make the decision, and the decision is abundantly clear to them. And I say this in the interest of world peace, that if Iran has a nuclear weapon, it will be incredibly destabilizing and obviously threatening to our strong ally.

And so my attitude is: Let's work in concert to convince the Government that it's not just the Israeli voices speaking or the United States voices speaking, but there's a lot of other voices saying the exact same thing, and present them with a choice.

Assistant Press Secretary John Deckard. Thank you all.

President Bush. Wait a minute. That seems a little unfair. He's got a strong answer coming—I can feel it. *[Laughter]*

Prime Minister Olmert. She said it in Hebrew, and you can't blame him; he didn't understand the Hebrew part of the question. I'll answer in Hebrew for the Israeli voters.

President Bush. Sure.

[Prime Minister Olmert spoke in Hebrew, and no translation was provided.]

Prime Minister Olmert. And again, I want to thank you, President Bush, for being so gracious to me and to the State of Israel.

President Bush. Yes, sir. Proud to have you here.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to James A. Baker III, cochair, Iraq Study Group; and President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. Prime Minister Olmert referred to President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; and Khaled Meshal, leader of the Hamas terrorist organization. A reporter referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
the Geneva Act of the Hague
Agreement Concerning the
International Registration of
Industrial Designs**

November 13, 2006

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (the "Agreement"), adopted in Geneva on July 2, 1999, and signed by the United States on July 6, 1999. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, a report of the Department of State with respect to the Agreement.

This Agreement promotes the ability of U.S. design owners to protect their industrial designs by allowing them to obtain multi-national design protection through a single deposit procedure. Under the Agreement, U.S. design owners would be able to file for design registration in any number of the Contracting Parties with a single standardized application in English at either the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or at the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Similarly, renewal of a design registration in each Contracting Party may be made by filing a single request along with payment of the appropriate fees at the International Bureau of WIPO. This Agreement should make access to international protection of industrial designs more readily available to U.S. businesses.

In the event that the Senate provides its consent to ratify the Agreement, the United States would not deposit its instrument of ratification until the necessary implementing legal structure has been established domestically.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Agreement and give its advice and consent to its ratification, subject to the declarations de-

scribed in the accompanying report of the Department of State.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 13, 2006.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Chief Executive Officers of United
States Automobile Manufacturers**

November 14, 2006

The Vice President and members of my Cabinet, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Transportation, members of my staff, and I have just had a constructive and meaningful dialog with CEOs of the U.S. automobile manufacturers.

First, these leaders have—are making difficult decisions, tough choices to make sure that their companies are competitive in a global economy. And I'm confident that they're making the right decisions, and that's good news for the American people because the automobile manufacturers play such a significant part of our economy and a vital part of our employment base.

We've had a fascinating discussion about a lot of major issues that we share in common. One, of course, is rising health care costs. And I assured these leaders that the Government is addressing rising health care costs through a variety of initiatives that I think, over time, are going to make a significant difference in not only their cost but the cost to the U.S. taxpayer as well.

We talked about our mutual desire to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Obviously, as these automobile manufacturers begin to incorporate new technologies that will enable us to power our cars in different ways, it will make it easier for me to be able to tell the American people, we're using less foreign oil. And that's in our economic interests as well as in our national security interests.

And finally, they've—these gentlemen are well aware that I'm on my way overseas this evening. And one of the issues I'll be talking about with our partners in APEC is free trade, but fair trade. And my message to our trading partners is: Just treat us the way we

treat you. Our markets are open for your products, and we expect your markets to be open for ours, including our automobiles.

And so we've found a lot in common. We'll have a continuing dialog. It's in our interest that in Government we find out ways that we'll be able to work to make sure that this industry is as vibrant and solid as possible. And so this is the beginning of a series of discussions we'll have—not only with me but also with people in our Government. I really do want to thank you all for coming. I appreciate you coming.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the event were Alan Mulally, president and chief executive officer, Ford Motor Co.; Thomas W. LaSorda, chief executive officer and president, Chrysler Group; and Rick Wagoner, chairman and chief executive officer, General Motors Corp.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the New Leaders of the Republican National Committee

November 14, 2006

I have just been meeting with the new team that's going to run the Republican National Committee. I am so proud my friend Mel Martinez, Senator from Florida, is going to be the honorary [general]* chairman. My friend Mike Duncan from Kentucky is going to be the chairman. And Jo Ann Davidson is going to be the cochairman.

I want to thank you all very much for agreeing to serve our party. I do want to say that Ken Mehlman did a whale of a job as the chairman of the Republican Party. It's been a joy working with you. I appreciate the fact that you went to neighborhoods where Republicans have never been to talk to people about our message of ownership and hope. And I wish you all the very best.

One of the things I like to tell my friends about the Republican Party is that we're a party that really believes in entrepreneurship and small businesses and good-quality education and accountability. And Mel Martinez represents what I believe our party stands

for, and that is, his parents put him on a plane to come to the United States from Cuba because they love freedom. That was Mel's first taste for the beauty of liberty and freedom. And he worked hard, started with little, and ended up being here, the United States Senator from Florida and the honorary chairman of our party. He's going to be an excellent spokesman for the Republican Party. He'll be a person who'll be able to carry our message as we go into an important year in 2008.

And Duncan has been involved with grassroots politics for a long period of time. He comes from a Democrat State that is now a Republican State because he understands that you win votes by organizing and turning out the vote. And of course, Jo Ann has been around our party for years. And she brings a lot of stability and a lot of common sense.

And so I do want to thank you three. I'm looking forward to working with you. I'm looking forward to reminding the people that we've got plans to keep the country secure and keep our prosperity strong. And once again, I want to thank you for your service.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Malaysia-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

November 14, 2006

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the United States of America and Malaysia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed on July 28, 2006, at Kuala Lumpur. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively.

* White House correction.

The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Treaty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: providing evidence (such as testimony, documents, items, or things) obtained voluntarily or, where necessary, by compulsion; arranging for persons, including persons in custody, to travel to the other country to provide evidence; serving documents; executing searches and seizures; locating and identifying persons, items, or places; examining objects and sites; freezing and forfeiting assets or property; and identifying or tracing proceeds of crime.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 14, 2006.

Proclamation 8083—America Recycles Day, 2006

November 14, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Good stewardship of the environment is a personal responsibility and an important public value, and on America Recycles Day, we highlight the many benefits of recycling. By taking steps to reduce waste and re-use materials, we can save precious natural resources, enhance the beauty of our communities, and add to the health and prosperity of our Nation.

Our citizens play an important role in protecting our environment, and throughout our country, we are recycling, composting, and helping turn materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. Recycling helps conserve energy, prevent greenhouse gas emissions and water pollutants, and decrease the need for new landfills and incinerators.

Recognizing the importance of recycling, my Administration is promoting cooperative

efforts to conserve and maintain our natural resources. The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging businesses, industries, and communities to work together to promote recycling through the Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC). Partnerships between government agencies, businesses, industries, and private organizations help us to improve practices of recycling, re-use, and waste reduction. In addition, my Administration is working with businesses through the Plug-In To eCycling Campaign to collect and re-use computers, cell phones, and other electronics that would otherwise become solid or hazardous waste. To further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save energy, the EPA is also partnering with manufacturers, utility companies, and construction companies through the Industrial Materials Recycling effort to increase the safe re-use of industrial byproducts.

Americans are united in the belief that we have an obligation to be good stewards of the environment, and America Recycles Day is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to wisely managing our natural resources. By promoting responsibility and good citizenship, we can build a brighter future for our children and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2006, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 16, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 17.

Statement on the Upcoming State Visit of Queen Elizabeth II of England and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

November 15, 2006

Laura and I welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, for a state visit in May 2007 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement. The United States and the United Kingdom enjoy an extraordinary friendship that is sustained by deep historical and cultural ties and a commitment to defend freedom around the world. We look forward to Her Majesty's state visit as an occasion to celebrate these enduring bonds.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

November 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of the following items is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China:

- Twelve Honeywell model HG1138 inertial measurement units to be incorporated into oil pipeline inspection equipment by the United Kingdom firm PII Group.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 16.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

November 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of the following items are not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China:

- 110,000 pounds of fine grain bulk graphite to be distributed to seven companies in the People's Republic of China for machining into industrial components; and
- A motorized mixer with a stainless steel vacuum mixing tank to Dow Corning (Shanghai) Company in the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 16.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore in Singapore

November 16, 2006

Prime Minister Lee. Well, I have just a few words to say. I'm very happy to have President Bush here and visiting Singapore for the second time in 3 years. We've had a very good conversation on many issues. Our bilateral relationship is excellent. We've had a very good time talking about it. We discussed what was happening in the region, what's happening in the Middle East, what's

happening all over Asia, our economic matters, as well as security issues, as well as terrorism.

And on many of these areas, we not only exchanged notes but found a significant degree of matching in our views. Maybe it's because we've exchanged views so many times and we know how each other think, but I think it's also because our interests are aligned. And Singapore is very happy that America has a stake in the region and is growing the stake in the region. And we would like to help this to happen and to ensure that this continues for a long time to come.

So welcome, sir.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thanks. Thank you for your hospitality, again. Laura and I feel very comfortable in your country, and we feel comfortable in your presence. You're right; we had a wide-ranging discussion. I always benefit when I get your advice and your counsel on the neighborhood. And I think America's presence in the Far East is very important for our own country. And therefore, when you share your thoughts with me, it makes it much easier for us to conduct wise foreign policy.

We've got a lot in common, particularly our desire to continue to promote free and fair trade, because your country has shown that open markets are capable of lifting up an entire people. And I congratulate you on your leadership, congratulate the people of Singapore for really being a model for the neighborhood.

And I'm looking forward to the dinner tonight that you're giving.

Prime Minister Lee. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:29 p.m. at the Istana. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the National Singapore University in Singapore November 16, 2006

Thank you very much. Good evening, Laura and I are really pleased to be back in Singapore, and I appreciate the chance to come and speak to you at this fine university. I thank the Government, the people of Singa-

pore for such gracious hospitality. I'm particularly pleased that my friend the Senior Minister Goh and his wife are with us today. Mr. Minister, thank you for joining us.

I also had a very fine meeting with Prime Minister Lee earlier. I've come to know him as a wise man. I appreciate his good counsel. He's a friend and a partner, and he's a strong voice for peace and prosperity in Asia.

Our roots, America's roots in Singapore are deep and enduring. I don't know if you know this or not, but our first counsel to Singapore arrived in the 1830s to promote American trade in this region. His wife was the daughter of one of America's most famous patriots, Paul Revere. She came to love the city, and she came to love its people. And to show that love, she donated a bell that was cast by the Revere Foundry to the old St. Andrew's Church. The Revere bell is now in the National Museum of Singapore, and it is a symbol of the long affection between the people of our two nations.

The story of Singapore is a story of people who overcame challenges and transformed a small port city into one of the most prosperous nations on Earth. Many of you have parents or grandparents who remember riding ox carts, and now fly across the oceans from one the world's most modern airports. Some learned four national anthems over their lifetime—Britain's, Japan's, Malaysia's, and finally, Singapore's. Others recall Singapore's early days and the pessimists who predicted that a small country with no natural resources was doomed to fail.

By your effort and enterprise, you have proven the pessimists wrong. And today, Singapore has one of the most vibrant economies in the entire world. In many ways, Singapore's transformation from a small trading outpost to a confident and prosperous leader is the story of Asia. Like Singapore, this region was mired in poverty after the Second World War. Like Singapore, the region had to overcome challenges that included war and occupation and colonialism. Like Singapore, the region faced threats from movements that sought to destabilize governments and impose their ideology on others. And like Singapore, the region has overcome these challenges, and the Asia we see today

is the fastest growing and most dynamic region in the world.

The United States has long recognized that it is in our interests to help expand hope and opportunity throughout Asia. And our policies have reflected this commitment for more than six decades. By opening our doors to Asian goods, America has ensured that Asian workers and businesses and entrepreneurs would have access to the world's largest economy. By maintaining a strong military presence in the region, America has helped provide stability. And with these actions, America has helped contribute to the modern and confident Asia we see today—a region where people's incomes and opportunities are rising, where businesses compete in the global economy, and where citizens know that a world growing in trade is a world expanding in opportunity.

In this new century, America will remain engaged in Asia, because our interests depend on the expansion of freedom and opportunity in this region. In this new century, our trade across the Pacific is greater than our trade across the Atlantic, and American businesses see a bright future in your thriving economies and rising middle class.

In this new century, we see threats like terrorism and proliferation and disease that have the potential to undermine our prosperity and put our futures in doubt. Amid these challenges, we hear voices calling for us to retreat from the world and close our doors to its opportunities. These are the old temptations of isolationism and protectionism, and America must reject them. We must maintain our presence in the Pacific. We must seize on our common opportunities. We must be willing to confront our common threats. And we must help our partners build more hopeful societies throughout this vital part of the world.

Building more hopeful societies starts with opening up to the opportunities of a global trading system. By opening up to trade, countries attract foreign investment they need to provide jobs and opportunities for their people. By opening up to trade, countries help attract the know-how that will enable them to compete in a global marketplace. And by opening up to trade, countries build wealth and empower their citizens.

The United States has long been committed to a global trading system that is free and that is fair. And so is Singapore. Singapore was the host of the first meeting of the World Trade Organization in 1996, where we announced an important new agreement on information technology goods. A decade later, America and Singapore are again close partners working toward a common purpose, a breakthrough in the Doha negotiations. Only an ambitious Doha agreement with real market access can achieve the economic growth and development goals that this world has set, and we look to nations across the Asia-Pacific region to help put these vital talks back on track.

To help build momentum for more open global trade, we're also opening up markets with individual nations. On this side of the Pacific, America has negotiated free trade agreements with Singapore and Australia, and we're negotiating similar agreements with Malaysia and South Korea. On the other side of the Pacific, we have successful free trade agreements with Canada and Mexico and Chile, and we've concluded negotiations with Peru. America believes in free and fair trade, and we will continue to open up new avenues to commerce and investment across this region.

Tomorrow I'm going to travel to Vietnam for the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. APEC has a vital role to play in promoting more open trading. In 1994, in Bogor, Indonesia, APEC reached an historic agreement to liberalize trade and investment throughout the region by 2020, and the United States strongly supports this goal. Recently some APEC members have advanced the idea of a free trade agreement for the entire APEC region. I believe this idea deserves serious consideration. The United States believes that APEC is the premier economic forum in the region. We believe APEC has immense potential to expand free trade and opportunity across the Pacific, and we will do our part to help APEC become a stronger organization that serves as an engine for economic growth and opportunity throughout the region.

The remarkable economic growth that this region has achieved points to a clear lesson: The expansion of trade is the most certain

path to lasting prosperity. America will continue to pursue trade at every level with individual countries, across all regions, and through the WTO. We will work to remove barriers to trade and investment, and by doing so, we will help reduce poverty and promote stability. And we will give citizens on both sides of the Pacific a brighter future.

Building more hopeful societies means working together to confront the challenges that face the entire region. Open markets and the entrepreneurial spirit have set off historic economic booms in Asia. This economic growth creates new opportunities, and yet we've got to recognize it creates new challenges. We must find the energy to power our growing economies. We must counter the risk of pandemic disease. And we must bring more people into the circle of development and prosperity. Meeting these challenges will require the effort of every nation, and you can count on the commitment of the United States.

As the economies of the Asia-Pacific thrive and expand, one of our most pressing needs will be an affordable, reliable supply of energy. Four of the world's top five energy consumers are APEC members, and the region's need for energy is going to continue to rise. The answer to this challenge is familiar in Asia: Harness the power of technology. Together, we must unleash the same spirit of innovation and enterprise that sparked the Asian economic revolution to spark a new revolution in new energy technologies.

America knows the importance of developing new energy sources because we are too dependent on a single source, and that is oil. So we're investing aggressively in clean coal technology, renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, and hydrogen fuel cells. Since 2001, we've spent nearly \$10 billion on clean energy technologies, and we're going to invest even more in the years to come. Across this region, we're cooperating with friends and allies to share our discoveries. We are learning from your experiences, and we're going to work together to improve new energy technologies—it's in our mutual interest to do so.

This cooperation includes several key initiatives that hold the promise of a cleaner and more energy-efficient world. Through

the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, the United States is working with Australia and China and India and Japan and South Korea to share best practices and deploy new energy technologies. Last month, our partnership announced nearly 100 new projects, ranging from clean coal to renewable energy to more efficient buildings. These new technologies are helping us to improve our energy security, and as importantly, are helping to improve air quality by cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, America is working with other leaders in nuclear energy, like Russia and France and Japan, to help developing nations use civilian nuclear energy, while guarding against weapons proliferation. And through the APEC Biofuels Task Force, we're working with nations across the region to search for new ways to replace oil with clean fuels made from palm oil and sugar cane and other natural products.

My hope is that the investments that we make today will enable you to drive different kind of automobiles and to heat your homes and air-condition your homes using different sources of energy. It's in the world's interest that we work together to end our addiction from oil.

Keeping our economies growing also requires protecting the health of our people. Four years ago, we saw the SARS virus inflict terrible damage on Asian-Pacific economies, a virus that claimed the lives of hundreds of people all across the world. Now this region faces a new threat of avian flu, and we're working together to address that threat. Vietnam was recently among the nations hardest hit by avian flu. Then Vietnam's leaders started to share information with the international community, and improve monitoring and public awareness, and take the difficult step of culling birds that might be infected. Vietnam's decisive actions have paid off. When I arrive in Hanoi for the APEC summit tomorrow, the country will have gone more than a year without a human case of avian flu. Our strategy is beginning to work.

At our summit, leaders will reaffirm our mutual responsibilities to report new avian

flu cases, to contain the spread of animal outbreaks, and to follow wise preparedness plans. We've taken the important steps to stop the spread of avian flu, but we must continue to increase cooperation to ensure that if the pandemic ever does break out, the world will be ready to deal with it.

America has committed over \$15 billion to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS across the world. Today, Vietnam has an estimated 280,000 citizens who suffer from this deadly virus, and many more who are in danger of becoming infected. Through our emergency plan for AIDS relief, we're working with Vietnam to do something about it. We've launched an ambitious 5-year program to help Vietnam meet three clear goals: to support treatment for 22,000 people; to support care for 110,000 people; and to support testing and prevention for 660,000 people.

Since 2004, we've provided more than \$138 million for this plan. We've helped bring relief to thousands of Vietnamese. It is in our interest to help defeat the spread of HIV/AIDS. This is a global challenge that grows daily and must be confronted directly. And I look forward to working with our Asian partners to do our duty to defeat this disease.

Our partners also know they can count on the United States when a disaster strikes suddenly. After the tsunami struck in 2004, we quickly dispatched military assistance and humanitarian relief to save lives and help devastated communities rebuild. By coming to the aid of people in dire need, America showed the good heart of our citizens and the depth of our friendship in this region.

Our commitments extend far beyond responding to disaster, and they must if we expect this world to be peaceful and prosperous. We're helping countries like the Philippines and Indonesia to provide their children an education that prepares them to succeed in the global economy. My administration started a new and bold foreign policy—foreign aid initiative called the Millennium Challenge Account. The United States will provide financial assistance to developing nations that govern justly—in other words, fight corruption—that invest in their people and enforce the rule of law. We've signed a Millennium Challenge threshold agreement with the Philippines. We will soon begin discus-

sions with Peru. And tomorrow we will sign an agreement with Indonesia. By providing governments that are committed to reform vital aid, we will help bring this region closer to a day when the benefits of economic growth and prosperity reach every citizen.

America has a clear approach to the challenges of the Asia-Pacific region. We believe that alleviating poverty and fighting disease and harnessing the benefits of technology require partnership, not paternalism. And the United States makes this pledge: Every nation that works to advance prosperity, health, and opportunity for all its people will find a ready partner in the United States.

Building more hopeful societies depends on a foundation of security. At the start of this young century, the nations of the Asia-Pacific region face a profound challenge: The same technology and global openness that have transformed our lives also threaten our lives. The same innovations that make it easier to build cars and computers make it easier to build weapons of mass destruction. The same advances in international transportation and finance that allow a manufacturer in Singapore to sell electronics to a store in San Francisco would also allow a proliferating regime in the Far East to sell dangerous technologies to a terrorist organization in the Middle East.

The danger is unmistakable. In an age of unprecedented technological advances, irresponsible behavior by a few can have catastrophic consequences for the entire world. The people of this region understand the threat that the world faces because they have been the targets of terrorist violence. The terrorists have attacked a nightclub in Bali, a hotel in Jakarta, a ferry packed with passengers in Manila Bay, a school full of children in Russia, Australia's Embassy in Indonesia, and other targets.

The killers who committed these acts of terror are more than criminals; they are followers of a clear and focused ideology that hates freedom and rejects tolerance and despises all dissent. Their stated goal is to establish a totalitarian Islamic empire stretching from Europe to Southeast Asia. The greatest danger in our world today is that these terrorists could get their hands on weapons of mass destruction and use them to blackmail free

nations or to kill on an unimaginable scale. This threat poses a risk to our entire civilization, and all our nations must work together to defeat it.

In this region, the most immediate threat of proliferation comes from North Korea. America's position is clear: The transfer of nuclear weapons or materiel by North Korea to states or non-state entities would be considered a grave threat to the United States, and we would hold North Korea fully accountable for the consequences of such action. For the sake of peace, it is vital that the nations of this region send a message to North Korea that the proliferation of nuclear technology to hostile regimes or terrorist networks will not be tolerated.

After North Korea's recent nuclear test, the United Nations Security Council passed a unanimous resolution making it clear that the regime's pursuit of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. The resolution imposes sanctions on North Korea's regime, and America will work with our partners to enforce those sanctions. We'll also continue working with Japan and China and South Korea and Russia through the six-party talks. Our nations are speaking with one voice: The only way for North Korea to move forward, for the good of their people, is to abandon its nuclear weapons programs and rejoin the international community.

North Korea recently took an encouraging step when it agreed to come back to the table and restart the six-party talks. The United States wants these talks to be successful, and we will do our part. If North Korea chooses a peaceful path, America and our partners in the six-party talks are prepared to provide security assurances, economic assistance, and other benefits to the North Korean people.

Ultimately, the success of these talks depends on the regime in North Korea. Pyongyang must show it's serious—show it is serious by taking concrete steps to implement its agreement to give up its nuclear weapons and weapons programs.

As we work for a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons, we're also strengthening defense cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Unlike Europe, where our security cooperation takes place through the NATO Alliance, America's security cooperation in Asia

takes place largely through bilateral defense relations.

America places the highest value on these partnerships. We're committed to strengthening our existing partnerships and to building new ones. With Japan, we continue to work closely to field a missile defense system to protect both our countries and others in the region from rogue regimes threatening blackmail and/or destruction. With South Korea, we have upgraded our deterrent capabilities, while reducing our footprint and repositioning U.S. troops stationed in the country. With Australia, we're working to improve joint training of our forces and increase cooperation in areas such as intelligence and missile defense research. With the Philippines, we're working to improve the capabilities of the nation's armed forces to fight terrorism and other threats. With India, we signed an historic agreement to expand defense cooperation, increase joint exercises, and improve intelligence sharing. With Vietnam, our Navy has made four port calls over the past 3 years, the first visits by U.S. military ships since the Vietnam war. And with Singapore, we signed a new strategic framework agreement that provides for joint military exercises and cooperation in military research and development.

By building new defense relationships and strengthening existing alliances, we are ensuring that the forces of freedom and moderation in this region can defend themselves against the forces of terror and extremism.

In addition to these bilateral defense relationships, America welcomes the growing multilateral security cooperation in this region. Today, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia are coordinating patrols in the Strait of Malaka and working to combat terrorism, piracy, and human trafficking. Through the Proliferation Security Initiative, 80 countries are cooperating to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and related materiel through air, land, and sea. APEC members know that advancing trade and opportunity throughout the Pacific requires safe travel and transport, so we will continue to work together to improve the security of our ports and airports and transportation routes.

With all these efforts, the nations of this region are answering the threats of the 21st century. And in doing so, we are laying the foundation of security and peace for generations to come. In the long run, the surest path to security is the expansion of liberty and freedom. History shows that free societies are peaceful societies. Democracies do not attack each other. Governments accountable to voters focus on building roads and schools, not weapons of mass destruction. Young people who have a say in their future are less likely to search for meaning in extremism. And nations that commit to freedom for their people don't support terrorists and extremists but, in fact, will join together to defeat them.

America is committed to advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism. We will take the side of democratic leaders and reformers. We will support the voices of tolerance and moderation across the world. We will stand with the mothers and fathers in every culture who want to see their children grow up in a caring and peaceful society.

We recognize that every democracy will reflect the unique culture and history of its people. Yet we recognize that there are universal freedoms, that there are God-given rights for every man, woman, and child on the face of this Earth. The people of Asia have faith in the power of freedom because you've seen freedom transform nations across your continent.

At the beginning of World War II, this side of the Pacific had only two democracies: Australia and New Zealand. Today, millions of Asians live in freedom. Freedom has unleashed the creative talents of people throughout Asia. Freedom has helped prosperity sweep across the region.

In all that lies ahead, the people of this region will have a partner in the American Government and a friend in the American people. Together the people of America and Asia have endured dark and uncertain hours. Together we've seen modern nations rise from the rubble of war and launch dynamic economies that are the envy of the world. Together we will confront the challenges of the new century and build a more hopeful

and peaceful and prosperous future for our children and our grandchildren.

I appreciate your hospitality. Thank you for letting me come by and share some thoughts with you. May God bless the people of Singapore.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:04 p.m. in the University Cultural Centre Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, and his wife, Tan Choo Leng; and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore in Singapore

November 16, 2006

President Bush. Thank you all. Mr. Prime Minister and Ms. Lee, thank you very much for your gracious hospitality. Laura and I are thrilled to be back here. I'm always amazed when I think about Singapore, a country that wasn't supposed to be; a part of the world where people basically said, "There's no chance for the good folks to survive and thrive." I'm amazed at your successes, and I appreciate the values on which your successes rest.

I congratulate the people of Singapore for being such a vivid example of enterprise and markets and hard work. I congratulate the Government for being visionary in its leadership. And I am thrilled that you allowed me to give a speech at one of your fine universities, talking about the importance of the Far East to the future of the United States.

I thank you very much for serving that meat. [*Laughter*] It was so good, it had to be from Texas. [*Laughter*]

The Prime Minister and I have had a lot of discussions about a variety of issues, and I shared with them one of my chief concerns, that our country would become—could possibly become isolationist and protectionist. In my speech today to the university, Mr. Prime Minister, I assured the listeners that it is in our interest to remain engaged in the world. It's in our economic interests and it's in our national interests that the United States work

with strong friends and allies such as Singapore to spread prosperity and hope and to work to lay the foundations for peace.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate your clear vision of the threats that we face. I appreciate the fact that you see the ideological struggle before us. I cannot think of a more steadfast leader in you, and your willingness to make the hard steps necessary to deal with this challenge today so that our children won't have to deal with it in more severe terms tomorrow.

I'm proud to call you friend. Laura and I are proud to be in your presence. May God bless you and your important country.

Prime Minister Lee. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 8:26 p.m. at the Istana. In his remarks, he referred to Ho Ching, wife of Prime Minister Lee. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Lee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 8084—National Family Week, 2006

November 16, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Families are indispensable to a stable and free society. They pass along the traditions and principles that help make America compassionate, decent, and hopeful. During National Family Week, we honor our families and recognize their contributions to keeping our country strong.

Today's fast-changing world needs the anchor of values and virtues that families can provide. Strong families instill responsibility and character in our children and teach them the ideals that make us a great Nation. Through their love and sacrifice, America's parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and other family members help prepare our

young people to realize the bright future America offers each child.

My Administration is committed to ensuring that our children grow up in loving, stable homes. Earlier this year, I signed legislation that creates new grants for faith-based and community organizations to support healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood. By reducing the marriage penalty and doubling the child tax credit, we have also provided important tax relief that helps parents to support and provide for their families.

During National Family Week and throughout the year, we also extend our appreciation and support to our courageous military families, who have borne the hardships of war with dignity and devotion. Our Nation has remained strong and free because the brave men and women of our Armed Forces defend this country and our beliefs. By supporting their loved ones in uniform, our military families are also serving our country, and America is grateful for their service and sacrifice.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 19 through November 25, 2006, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 20, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

Proclamation 8085—Thanksgiving Day, 2006

November 16, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As Americans gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, we give thanks for the many ways that our Nation and our people have been blessed.

The Thanksgiving tradition dates back to the earliest days of our society, celebrated in decisive moments in our history and in quiet times around family tables. Nearly four centuries have passed since early settlers gave thanks for their safe arrival and pilgrims enjoyed a harvest feast to thank God for allowing them to survive a harsh winter in the New World. General George Washington observed Thanksgiving during the Revolutionary War, and in his first proclamation after becoming President, he declared November 26, 1789, a national day of “thanksgiving and prayer.” During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln revived the tradition of proclaiming a day of thanksgiving, reminding a divided Nation of its founding ideals.

At this time of great promise for America, we are grateful for the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and defended by our Armed Forces throughout the generations. Today, many of these courageous men and women are securing our peace in places far from home, and we pay tribute to them and to their families for their service, sacrifice, and strength. We also honor the families of the fallen and lift them up in our prayers.

Our citizens are privileged to live in the world’s freest country, where the hope of the American dream is within the reach of every person. Americans share a desire to answer the universal call to serve something greater than ourselves, and we see this spirit every day in the millions of volunteers throughout our country who bring hope and healing to those in need. On this Thanksgiving Day, and throughout the year, let us show our gratitude for the blessings of freedom, family, and faith, and may God continue to bless America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 2006, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship with family, friends, and loved ones to reinforce the ties that bind us and give thanks for the freedoms and many blessings we enjoy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 20, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and an Exchange With Reporters in Hanoi, Vietnam

November 17, 2006

President Bush. I just had an enjoyable lunch with my friend John Howard. We talked about a variety of subjects. I talked to John about Iraq. I appreciate the Australian contributions to helping this young democracy succeed. There’s a lot of questions, I know, in the press around the world about our troop posture and about the attitudes of our Government. I assured John that we will get the job done. We will continue to help this Maliki Government meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people.

And that—I’m sure there’s some questions by the Australian press about what the elections mean. The elections mean that the American people want to know whether or not we have a plan for success, and that—and I assured John that any repositioning of troops, if that’s what we choose to do, will be done in close consultation with John and

his Government. But I also assured him that we're not leaving until this job is done, until Iraq can govern, sustain, and defend itself.

We talked about the climate. John has got some very strong ideas about the use of technologies to enable countries like our own and the rest of the world to be able to grow and, at the same time, protect the environment. And I appreciated his views. And I share those views. I assured him that we will continue to spend research dollars to develop technologies such as clean coal technologies, something that Australia is interested in, or the use of ethanol, for example, to power our automobiles, or money spent to develop hydrogen fuel cells, all aimed at changing our energy habits and, at the same time, protecting the environment.

We talked about the neighborhood that Australia is in. I always admire John's strategic vision of the world. I really appreciate the chance to have lunch with you.

Prime Minister Howard. Well, thank you very much, George. We did cover all of those subjects, and we spent a lot of time, naturally, talking about Iraq. Our views are very similar. It's not easy, but we hold to the view, and I've said it back in Australia, and I'd repeat it here today, that the idea of the coalition leaving in circumstances where the Iraqi people were not soon to be able to look after themselves and to enjoy the democracy they want would be a catastrophic defeat for our cause, not only in the Middle East, but it would embolden terrorists in that region. And it would embolden terrorism in countries like Indonesia.

Our discussions about climate change were very valuable. Our thinking is similar. We don't believe that Kyoto is the answer. Both our countries are committed to dealing with the growth of greenhouse gasses. We can have debate about the severity of the problem, but there's really no debate about the desirability of responding to it, provided we do it in a way that maintains economic growth in our societies and the world.

And we certainly have a similarity of commitment to doing things in the area of technology. And I indicated to the President that Australia is looking very seriously at the place of nuclear power in our own response. And the Australian media will be aware of the up-

coming Switkowski report that is going to deal with the whole question of nuclear power in the overall equation.

President Bush. We'll answer a couple of questions. Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

Vietnam-U.S. Relations

Q. Thank you, sir. What does it mean to you personally and what do you think it means to other Americans who experienced some of the turbulence of the Vietnam war that you're here now, talking cooperation and peace with a former enemy?

President Bush. You know, Laura and I were talking about—we were talking about how amazing it is we're here in Vietnam. And one of the most poignant moments of the drive in was passing the lake where John McCain got pulled out of the lake. And he's a friend of ours; he suffered a lot as a result of his imprisonment, and yet we passed the place where he was, literally, saved, in one way, by the people pulling him out.

I guess my first reaction is, history has a long march to it and that societies change and relationships can constantly be altered to the good. And I'm looking forward to my meetings with the President and the Prime Minister here shortly. I found it really interesting, for example, that the Prime Minister's children were educated in the United States. The Prime Minister of Vietnam who, as I understand it, was part of the Viet Cong, sends his children to our country to get educated, and one of his children ended up marrying a Vietnamese American. And it shows how hopeful the world can be and how people can reconcile and move beyond past difficulties for the common good.

Vietnam is an exciting place. It's a place with an enormous future, and they obviously have got to work through difficulties like religious freedom, for example, but nevertheless, there's certainly a new hopefulness to this country. And so I'm—thought a lot about what it was like, what my impressions of Vietnam were growing up, and here I am in this country today, and I guess my answer is, it's very hopeful.

Democracy Efforts in Iraq

Q. Are there lessons here for the debate over Iraq?

President Bush. I think one thing—yes, I mean, one lesson is, is that we tend to want there to be instant success in the world, and the task in Iraq is going to take awhile. But I would make it beyond just Iraq. I think the great struggle we're going to have is between radicals and extremists versus people who want to live in peace, and that Iraq is a part of the struggle. And it's just going to take a long period of time to—for the ideology that is hopeful, and that is an ideology of freedom, to overcome an ideology of hate. Yet, the world that we live in today is one where they want things to happen immediately.

And it's hard work in Iraq. That's why I'm so proud to have a partner like John Howard who understands it's difficult to get the job done. We'll succeed unless we quit. The Maliki Government is going to make it unless the coalition leaves before they have a chance to make it. And that's why I assured the Prime Minister we'll get the job done.

Do you want to ask somebody?

Australia-U.S. Cooperation on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, did the Prime Minister raise any new ideas on Iraq during your talks? Can you tell us what they are, and will you be taking them up?

President Bush. The Prime Minister's main concern was that we consult closely together. And I assured him that's going to be the case. That's the way it has been throughout this war on terror. We value Australia's commitments; I value John Howard's advice. And when our deliberations are complete—and as you may or may not know, we've got a lot of people looking at different tactical adjustments—once I make up my mind what those will be, I'll share it with him right off the bat.

Let's see here—yes, Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq

Q. You mentioned troop postures in Iraq. There's a report that you may want to send 30,000 additional troops to Iraq. Is that something—

President Bush. Where was that report?

Q. In the Guardian newspaper.

President Bush. Guardian newspaper? Well, I don't read that paper often. But I—look, I'm going to listen to our commanders, Steve. Ours is a condition-based strategy, and Pete Pace is conducting a thorough study—he's the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. John Abizaid has got some ideas, and the Baker-Hamilton Commission is looking. I want to hear from Democrats on Capitol Hill what their views may be. I want to hear from my fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill. And then I'll make up my mind. So I'm not aware of the Guardian article.

North Korea

Q. Are you getting sufficient cooperation from South Korea on North Korea? And will this be something you talk to them about tomorrow?

President Bush. Oh, absolutely. I'll remind—

Q. —they're not following through on the sanctions as hard as they could have.

President Bush. I'll, of course, talk to the South Korean President about implementing the United Nations Security Council resolution. I'll talk to Vladimir Putin, Hu Jintao, and Prime Minister Abe as well. I'm meeting with all our partners in the six-party talks.

The APEC is an important summit; it's an important opportunity to talk about the importance of free trade. But it's also important to give us a chance to talk about other issues—and a key issue that John and I, by the way, talked about—is going to be North Korea. We have a chance to solve this issue peacefully and diplomatically. It's important for the world to see that the Security Council resolutions which were passed are implemented. So part of my discussions will be how we fully implement those sanctions that the world has asked for, but also it's a chance to set the conditions right so that the six-party talks will succeed. North Korea, as you know, has decided to come back to the table, and it gives us a chance to solve this problem peacefully.

Military Tribunals

Q. Mr. President, did you discuss the issue of David Hicks at all with the Prime Minister? And when do you think he might come to trial?

President Bush. Yes, we did. The Prime Minister brought it up. He was pleased that I was able to sign the military tribunal bill—in other words, a way forward for somebody like Hicks to be able to get a day in court. And he was asking me, do I have a timetable in mind as to when Hicks's trial will be coming forth? I told him I didn't, although we hope that Hicks is one of the early people that will have a day in court.

Interestingly enough, as I understand, Hicks has lawyers that may be trying to appeal certain aspects of the law we passed. If that's the case, he's having his day in court in an interesting way. But I believe Hicks deserves a trial and is going to get it.

Thank you all very much.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you.

Q. One more, do you feel generous, one more?

President Bush. No, I'm not generous. It's also hot out here, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News]. We're in the sun; you're not. [Laughter]

Q. I don't see you sweat.

President Bush. That's the problem; you might see me sweat.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; President Nguyen Minh Triet and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam; Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Hu Jintao of China; Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan; and Australian citizen David M. Hicks, a detainee at the U.S. Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam in Hanoi

November 17, 2006

Mr. President, thank you very much for your hospitality. Laura and I have been struck by the friendliness of the people of Vietnam. In our drive through this beautiful city, we were pleased to see thousands of your citizens with smiles on their faces. And we're so grateful.

I've been reading and studying about your country, and I have seen now firsthand the great vibrancy and the excitement that's taking place in Vietnam. You're like a young tiger, and I look forward to continuing to work to make sure our bilateral relations are close. And thank you for hosting APEC. And thank you for hosting a dinner for us tonight. We're really looking forward to it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America

November 17, 2006

President Nguyen Minh Triet of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was pleased to welcome United States President George W. Bush to Vietnam. Looking back on the June 2005 Joint Statement by President Bush and then Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, both leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress the bilateral relationship has made, resulting in a U.S.-Vietnam relationship today that is multi-faceted and forward looking. It encompasses significant and growing trade and economic ties, an emerging military-to-military relationship, successful cooperation on health and development issues, growing cultural and educational links, a commitment to resolving remaining issues stemming from the war, a shared interest in ensuring peace,

stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, and frank and candid discussion of differences. The two sides reaffirmed their efforts to ensure that bilateral relations are stable, constructive, broad-based, and conducted on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

President Triet and President Bush applauded the historic milestone of Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization and President Bush reiterated his firm support for the earliest possible Congressional approval of Permanent Normal Trade Relations. President Triet confirmed that Vietnam would fully uphold the rules-based trading system embedded in the WTO and join other members in their efforts to create a level playing field based on fairness, openness, and transparency. He welcomed President Bush's assurances that the United States would maintain open access to the U.S. market and support Vietnam's process of integration with the world economy. The two leaders anticipated an even greater amount of bilateral trade and investment, benefiting the people of both nations. President Bush also welcomed the Vietnamese leadership's determination to accelerate the course of doi moi reforms, build the rule of law, and combat corruption, and held that such efforts are important for Vietnam's economic vitality and favorable business and investment climate. The two Presidents also looked forward to the signing of a Maritime Transport Agreement at an early date to further accelerate growth in our vibrant economic relationship.

President Bush and President Triet discussed the growing cooperation between the United States and Vietnam to address regional and global concerns. President Bush welcomed Vietnam's active engagement in international affairs aimed at maintaining peace, cooperation and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and noted his appreciation of Vietnam's support for a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and the consensus views of the UNSC as expressed in UNSCR 1718. President Triet welcomed the reconvening of the Six Party Talks and expressed the hope that a peaceful solution for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would be reached.

The two leaders pledged to increase cooperation to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related technology and materials in accordance with international and national laws and each country's capacities. They also pointed to the agreement on nuclear fuel replacement at the Dalat Research Reactor, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security, as examples of the diverse ways in which the two countries are working together to protect the safety and security of their peoples and others in the region.

The two leaders looked especially to cooperation on the health front as an example of the tangible benefits of the United States and Vietnam working closely together. President Bush praised Vietnam's timely, effective, and transparent response to avian influenza in the country, which has prevented any further human outbreaks in Vietnam since October 2005. He noted that Vietnam's efforts were a model for the region, and pledged continued U.S. support in responding to the threat of avian influenza. As Vietnam is one of the focus countries for President Bush's PEPFAR initiative on HIV/AIDS, the United States and Vietnam have also worked closely together to combat the scourge of this disease. The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the present positive cooperation. President Triet praised the work of the STAR initiative in Vietnam and the extension of this activity. President Triet also expressed appreciation for the U.S. Government's increasing development assistance to Vietnam and urged the U.S. side to increase humanitarian assistance including through cooperation on areas such as unexploded ordinance and continued assistance to Vietnamese with disabilities. The United States and Vietnam also agreed that further joint efforts to address the environmental contamination near former dioxin storage sites would make a valuable contribution to the continued development of their bilateral relationship.

President Bush explained the National Security Strategy of the United States, which stresses the importance to world peace and stability of the development in every country

of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. President Triet apprised President Bush of recently promulgated laws and regulations on religious freedom that are to be implemented in all localities of Vietnam. The two leaders also noted the importance of continuing to make progress in the bilateral human rights dialogue and reaffirmed that it should be conducted in a comprehensive, constructive and results-oriented manner.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction with progress on resolving outstanding issues from the war and agreed that the two sides would continue cooperation in this respect. President Triet reaffirmed his Government's continued efforts to assist the United States to ensure the fullest possible accounting for Americans who remain missing in action, through both joint and enhanced unilateral actions. President Bush reaffirmed U.S. contributions to help obtain information on Vietnamese MIA cases.

Presidents Triet and Bush discussed cooperation in regional affairs, and President Bush praised Vietnam's hosting of APEC this year as a demonstration of Vietnam's active and important role in promoting trade and economic liberalization and strengthening security in the region. President Triet noted the robust engagement by the United States with ASEAN, and looked towards increasing that cooperation through the U.S.-ASEAN Enhanced Partnership. The two leaders pledged continued efforts to seek mutual understanding on issues of regional and global concern.

The two leaders noted the importance of high-level visits between the two countries to the development of Vietnam-U.S. relations in the future. President Bush invited President Triet to visit the United States in 2007 to continue these discussions; President Triet thanked President Bush and accepted the invitation with pleasure.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Senate Passage of the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Bill

November 17, 2006

The United States and India enjoy a strategic partnership based upon common values. Today the Senate has acted to further strengthen this relationship by passing legislation that will deliver energy, nonproliferation, and trade benefits to the citizens of two great democracies.

The U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation agreement will bring India into the international nuclear nonproliferation mainstream and will increase the transparency of India's entire civilian nuclear program. As India's economy continues to grow, this partnership will help India meet its energy needs without increasing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. It will also help reduce India's dependence upon imported fossil fuels. By increasing India's demand for civil nuclear technology, fuel, and support services, this historic agreement creates new business opportunities for American companies and enhances our trade relationship.

I appreciate the Senate's leadership on this important legislation and look forward to signing this bill into law soon.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 5682, which was passed with amendments by the Senate on November 16.

Statement on the Death of Milton Friedman

November 17, 2006

America has lost one of its greatest citizens. Milton Friedman was a revolutionary thinker and extraordinary economist whose work helped advance human dignity and human freedom.

A champion of limited government and personal freedom, Friedman proposed bold ideas about school choice, tax reductions, and an all-volunteer army that serve as the foundation of many of America's most successful Government reforms. His work demonstrated that free markets are the great engines of economic development. His writings

laid the groundwork that transformed many of the world's central banks, helping deliver economic stability and improved living standards in countries around the world.

Milton Friedman, a recipient of the Nobel Prize, will be remembered as one of the most influential economists in history. The Nation is grateful for his profound contributions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Friedman family.

Remarks at a State Banquet Hosted by President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam in Hanoi

November 17, 2006

Mr. President and Madam Chi, the reason I'm smiling is because I'm really happy to be here, and so is Laura. And we thank you for your warm hospitality. First, I want to congratulate you for your success on hosting APEC. I'm confident our fellow leaders will have the same sense of gratitude and respect that we feel from the Vietnamese people.

Vietnam is a remarkable country. For decades you had been torn apart by war. Today, the Vietnamese people are at peace and seeing the benefits of reform. The Vietnamese own their own businesses, and today, the Vietnamese economy is the fastest growing in Southeast Asia. Vietnamese students have great opportunities here at home and abroad. The Vietnamese people are traveling around the world and sharing this ancient culture with peoples of the world. And the United States, as well as other APEC partners, look forward to strengthening our ties.

The American people welcome the progress of Vietnam. And we want to continue to work together to better our relations. We will work with you to help combat avian flu and HIV/AIDS. We have signed agreements to protect religious freedom. We strongly support Vietnam in the World Trade Organization.

Vietnam is a country that's taking its rightful place as a strong and vibrant nation. Mr. President, your leadership is helping your country succeed. I can see it as I drive on the streets; the people of your country have hope. And I hope they know, as a result of

my visit, they have the friendship of the American people.

And so, Mr. President, I would like to propose a toast to you and Madam Chi and to the fine people of Vietnam.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:15 p.m. at the International Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Tran Thi Kim Chi, wife of President Triet. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia. He then had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Quantico, VA. Later, he met with Dan and Deb Dunham, whose son, Corp. Jason Dunham, USMC, was killed in Iraq and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. He then returned to Washington, DC.

November 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception for members of the 555th Anti-aircraft Artillery Battalion who served during World War II.

November 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Pervez

Musharraf of Pakistan. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with members of the Iraq Study Group.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel. Later, he hosted a reception for newly elected Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Everett Keenum to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services and to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen C. Williams to be a Governor of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

November 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Moscow, Russia, arriving the following day.

November 15

In the morning, aboard Air Force One, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, upon arrival at the Vnukovo II International Airport in Moscow, the President and Mrs. Bush met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Singapore, arriving the following day.

November 16

In the morning, upon arrival in Singapore, the President and Mrs. Bush went to the Shangri-La Hotel. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the the Asian Civilisations Museum. Then, at the Shangri-La Hotel, they greeted U.S. Embassy personnel and their families.

In the afternoon, the President went to the Istana where he met with Acting President J.Y. Pillay of Singapore. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to the Shangri-La Hotel.

In the evening, at the Istana, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Min-

ister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife, Ho Ching. Later, they returned to the Shangri-La Hotel.

November 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, where, upon arrival, they went to the Sheraton Hanoi.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia. Later, at the Presidential Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony and official photograph with President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam and his wife, Mrs. Chi.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush paid a courtesy call on President Triet and Mrs. Chi. The President then had separate meetings with President Triet and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam. Then, at the Communist Party Headquarters, he met with General Secretary Nong Duc Manh of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to the Sheraton Hanoi.

In the evening, at the International Convention Center, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a state banquet. They then returned to the Sheraton Hanoi.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 13

Katherine Almquist, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Lloyd O. Pierson, resigned.

Andrew G. Biggs, of New York, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the remainder of the

term expiring January 19, 2007, vice James B. Lockhart III.

Andrew G. Biggs,
of New York, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2013 (reappointment).

Dan Gregory Blair,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2012, vice George A. Omas, term expired.

Terry L. Cline,
of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Charles Curie, resigned.

Benjamin Donenberg,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012, vice Maribeth McGinley, term expired.

Charles E. Dorkey III,
of New York, to be a member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, vice James S. Simpson.

Foreststorn Hamilton,
of New York, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012, vice Mary Costa, term expired.

Richard Allan Hill,
of Montana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring June 10, 2009, vice Juanita Sims Doty, term expired.

Daine Humetewa,
of Arizona, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation for a term expiring August 25, 2012, vice Richard Narcia, term expired.

Joan Israelite,
of Missouri, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring Sep-

tember 3, 2012, vice Don V. Cogman, term expired.

Mark Everett Keenum,
of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, vice J. B. Penn.

Mark Everett Keenum,
of Mississippi, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, vice J. B. Penn.

Scott A. Keller,
of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Steven B. Nesmith, resigned.

Charlotte P. Kessler,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012, vice Katharine DeWitt, term expired.

Robert Bretley Lott,
of Louisiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012, vice Teresa Lozano Long, term expired.

William Francis Price, Jr.,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012, vice Evelyn Dee Potter Rose, term expired.

Anthony W. Ryan,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Timothy S. Bitsberger.

Paul A. Schneider,
of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, vice Janet Hale, resigned.

Leon R. Sequeira,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Veronica Vargas Stidvent.

Ellen C. Williams,
of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2016 (reappointment).

Submitted November 14

Steven G. Bradbury,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Jack Landman Goldsmith III, resigned.

Paul DeCamp,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, vice Tammy Dee McCutchen, resigned.

Elizabeth Dougherty,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2007, vice Edward J. Fitzmaurice, Jr., term expired.

Elizabeth Dougherty,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2010 (reappointment).

Arlene Holen,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2010, vice Robert H. Beatty, Jr., term expired.

Richard Stickler,
of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, vice David D. Lauriski, resigned to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2007 (reappointment).

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson,
of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (reappointment).

Peter W. Tredick,
of California, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2009, vice Read Van de Water, term expired.

Withdrawn November 14

Elizabeth Dougherty,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term

expiring July 1, 2009, vice Read Van de Water, term expiring, which was sent to the Senate on May 25, 2006.

Peter W. Tredick,
of California, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2007, vice Edward J. Fitzmaurice, Jr., term expired, which was sent to the Senate on March 27, 2006.

Peter W. Tredick,
of California, to be a member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2010 (reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on July 18, 2006.

Submitted November 16

Terrence W. Boyle,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., retired.

William James Haynes II,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice H. Emory Widener, Jr., retiring.

Peter D. Keisler,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, vice John G. Roberts, Jr., elevated.

William Gerry Myers III,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Thomas G. Nelson, retired.

James Edward Rogan,
of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California, vice Nora M. Manella, resigned.

Margaret A. Ryan,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of 15 years to expire on the date prescribed by law, vice Herman F. Gierke, term expired.

Benjamin Hale Settle,
of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington, vice Franklin D. Burgess, retired.

Norman Randy Smith,
of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the
Ninth Circuit, vice Stephen S. Trott, retired.

Scott Wallace Stucky,
of Maryland, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court
of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term
of 15 years to expire on the date prescribed
by law, vice Susan J. Crawford, term expired.

Michael Brunson Wallace,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for
the Fifth Circuit, vice Charles W. Pickering,
Sr., retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released November 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: President Bush Dedicates the
National Museum of the Marine Corps and
Announces He Will Award Corporal Jason
Dunham the Medal of Honor

Released November 11

Statement by the Press Secretary on an Ar-
gentine Federal judge ordering international

arrest warrants for the July 18, 1994, terrorist
attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Asso-
ciation building in Buenos Aires

Released November 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Statement
on Mali Signing Millennium Challenge Cor-
poration Compact

Released November 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow and National Security Ad-
viser Stephen J. Hadley

Fact sheet: Working Together To Build
More Hopeful Societies in the Asia-Pacific
Region

Released November 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow and Deputy National Se-
curity Adviser for International Economic
Affairs David H. McCormick

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Tony Snow

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were
received by the Office of the Federal Register
during the period covered by this issue.